

 Aug. 30 vs. W. Mich. W, 28-14	 Sept. 7 vs. S. Dakota W, 27-13	 Sept. 14 vs. Alabama L, 42-10	 Sept. 28 at USC L, 38-21	 Oct. 5 vs. Purdue W, 52-6	 Oct. 12 at Rutgers W, 42-7	 Oct. 19 at N'western W, 23-3	 Oct. 26 vs. Penn State 6:30 p.m., NBC	 Nov. 2 at Iowa TBD	 Nov. 16 vs. Oregon TBD	 Nov. 23 at Nebraska TBD	 Nov. 29 vs. Minnesota 11 a.m., CBS
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BADGERS GAMEDAY



GAME 8 | **VS. PENN STATE** | CAMP RANDALL STADIUM | 6:30 P.M. | NBC

BREAKDOWN

Per-game averages

 **UW**  **PSU**

Rushing offense



Passing offense



Points per game



Rushing defense



Passing defense



Points allowed per game



UW LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
T. Walker	104	565	5.4	9
C. Yacamelli	33	274	8.3	2
C. Mellusi	56	232	4.1	3
D. Dupree	44	151	3.4	1

PASSING	C-A	YDS	TD	INT
B. Locke	80-135	1,064	7	5
T. Van Dyke	43-68	422	1	0
M. Mettauer	1-1	2	0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
V. Anthony II	13	314	24.2	2
W. Pauling	30	302	10.1	2
T. Kekahuna	15	233	15.5	2
C. Williams	10	162	16.2	1

DEFENSE	TKL	TFL	SACK	INT
J. Thomas	43	1	1	0
H. Wohler	37	1	0	0
J. Chaney	29	3	0	0
P. Zachman	27	2.5	0	2

PSU LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
N. Singleton	63	434	6.9	3
K. Allen	90	423	4.7	3
D. Allar	30	121	4	3
B. Pribula	15	105	7	1

PASSING	C-A	YDS	TD	INT
D. Allar	103-146	1,492	11	4
B. Pribula	7-10	102	2	1
T. Warren	2-2	26	1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
T. Warren	40	513	12.8	4
H. Wallace III	17	283	16.6	2
O. Evans	11	236	21.5	2
L. Clifford	11	206	18.7	1

DEFENSE	TKL	TFL	SACK	INT
J. Reed	39	3	1.5	1
K. King	30	3	1	0
T. Rojas	27	3.5	0	1
Z. Wheatley	27	1.5	0	1

PSU SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	at West Virginia	W, 34-12
Sept. 7	Bowling Green	W, 34-27
Sept. 21	Kent State	W, 56-0
Sept. 28	Illinois	W, 21-7
Oct. 5	UCLA	W, 27-11
Oct. 12	at USC	W, 33-30 (OT)
Oct. 26	at Wisconsin	
Nov. 2	Ohio State	
Nov. 9	Washington	
Nov. 16	at Purdue	
Nov. 23	at Minnesota	
Nov. 30	Maryland	

HISTORY

Series: Penn State leads 11-9

First meeting: Wisconsin won 20-0 on Sept. 26, 1953 at Wisconsin

Last meeting: Penn State won 16-10 on Sept. 4, 2021 at Camp Randall

Longest Penn State winning streak: 5 games from 2012 to 2021 (active)

Longest Wisconsin winning streak: 3 games from 1953 to 1995

BY THE NUMBERS

2003

The last time the Badgers beat the No. 3 team in the AP Poll, a 17-10 win against Ohio State. Wisconsin is 4-12-1 all-time against the No. 3 team in the nation.

210.5

Rushing yards per game in Big Ten contests for the Badgers, the most in the conference by nearly 25 yards per game.

188

Total penalty yards for the Badgers this season, which is third-fewest in the FBS. Wisconsin had 218 penalty yards in the first four games in 2023.

THREE KEYS | FOR THE BADGERS

Eye discipline on defense

Penn State's offense does a lot pre-snap movement to try to confuse an opponent. It'll shift, then motion, then send another man in motion just to run a simple handoff between the tackles. Then offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki — a UW-River Falls graduate — breaks out strange alignments that get defenses worried about which players are eligible before a quick screen the other direction. The system relies on the idea of making defenses think slows them down.

Wisconsin's defense has to trust its preparation this week and ignore the distractions presented by Penn State. Getting caught up in motions and fakes will lead to what Kotelnicki wants: a receiver running free down the field because the defense miscommunicated and didn't account for that player. Badgers safety Preston Zachman has done well keeping things in front of him and flying to the ball when appropriate. His ability to do that Saturday will be crucial.

Continue finding ways to threaten edge

Wisconsin's offense over the past three weeks has been built around the powerful running of senior Tawee Walker. His work between the tackles and following pullers around the edge has become the base for what's been an effective and explosive passing attack. Quarterback Braedyn Locke has looked his best when utilizing play-action passes and RPOs (run-pass options), plays that force the defense to concern themselves with Walker first, then passes.

The next step for Wisconsin is to add more threats toward the edges of the defense. Outside runs from backup running backs Darrion Dupree and Cade Yacamelli have been fairly effective, as have jet sweep passes and reverses. Whether it's these plays or new wrinkles the offense designs for Penn State's front, creating more counters to the inside runs will help the Badgers stay efficient against a big, aggressive front like the Nittany Lions have.

Force another slow start

Penn State hasn't had an easy path to the undefeated record it brings to Camp Randall Stadium. The Nittany Lions have trailed in the first half in three of their six games and required big comeback efforts in the second half to beat Bowling Green and Southern Cal. Penn State has scored as many points as its allowed in first quarters (24) this year.

Wisconsin got first-half leads in each of the past three weeks and that cushion allowed the Badgers to stay on the plan for offensive play-calling. Wisconsin's chances of winning a shootout against Penn State aren't great, so keeping the Nittany Lions in check early and getting a lead so it can control the ball and the game through the rushing attack would be most beneficial.

THREE KEYS | FOR THE NITTANY LIONS

Get pressure on Locke

The strength of the Penn State roster is its defensive front. The Nittany Lions are tied for 11th in the Big Ten with 14 sacks, but they rank tied for fifth in total pressures (114) and fourth in pressures per game (19). Penn State edge defenders Dani Den-nis-Sutton (21 pressures) and Abdul Carter (20) lead the way and will be good challenges for Badgers tackles Riley Mahlman and Jack Nelson, both of whom are averaging less than one pressure allowed per game this season after averaging about 1.5 pressures allowed per game last season.

Locke has shown the ability to attack all levels of the field and be accurate when he's comfortable in the pocket. He has a rate of 8.8 yards per attempt when he's throwing from a clean pocket, per PFF, a number that drops to 3.6 when he's under pressure.

Let Allar challenge deep often

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar has become one of the best deep passers in college football in the later stages of his career. He's averaging 22.2 yards per attempt on his 17 tries of at least 20 air yards, which ranks third in the FBS. However, only 11.6% of his throws are deep shots, a percentage just slightly higher than his counterpart Saturday in Locke (11.1%).

Wisconsin's secondary has been solid this year and the Badgers rank third in the Big Ten with 155.9 passing yards allowed. However, the two quarterbacks to do the most damage against them were Alabama's Jalen Milroe (196 yards) and USC's Miller Moss (308) and they combined to go 7 of 13 for 226 yards, four touchdowns and one interception on throws of 20 or more air yards.

The Badgers might be missing star freshman cornerback Xavier Lucas, which gives even more reason to test them deep.

Get Wisconsin linebackers in space

One of the biggest advantages Penn State has is the speed and athleticism of running backs Kaytron Allen and Nicholas Singleton. That combination serves as the heartbeat of the offense, and Singleton has proved to be a big-play creator. He averages 6.9 yards per rush and 11.3 yards per catch.

Wisconsin typically relies on its linebackers to cover running backs out of the backfield, leaving its safeties to work in zones or cover players in the slot. Badgers linebackers Jake Chaney and Jaheim Thomas are getting three times the snaps as their backups Tackett Curtis and Christian Alliegro, but the second-stringers are faster and better in pass coverage. If Penn State sees Chaney and Thomas on the field more often, it should get their running backs out in pass routes and force the linebackers to cover space.

Penn State running back Nicholas Singleton is averaging 6.9 yards per rush and 11.3 yards per catch.

ASSOCIATED PRESS ARCHIVES

PLAYERS TO WATCH | FOR PENN STATE



Drew Allar's redemption tour

Penn State fans are in the middle of their third year watching quarterback Drew Allar, but this is the first year the scales have tipped toward believing in the signal-caller. He had a good season statistically in 2023 — 2,631 yards, 25 touchdowns, two interceptions and a 59.8% completion rate — but he didn't perform well against the best teams on Penn State's schedule.

His arm strength and his ability to extend plays behind the line of scrimmage make him a dangerous quarterback. He's been more efficient this year, completing 70.5% of his throws while averaging almost 250 passing yards per game. He's at four INTs this fall, but that is in part due to an increased aggressiveness throwing down field. Three of his four interceptions have come on throws at least 15 yards down field.

A win on the road at Wisconsin would be a nice boost for Allar before playing Ohio State next week.



Abdul Carter toughest test for Wisconsin's offensive line yet

The Badgers feature one of the most experienced offensive lines in the country with four players in their third years as a starter. However, they'll have their hands full with defensive end Abdul Carter, who has just as much experience. The Philadelphia native has been an impactful player for the Penn State front since he arrived on campus two years ago and he's on pace for his best season yet.

He has a long, strong frame at 6 foot 3 and 253 pounds, and he does his best work when he is utilizing counter moves to the inside after working up field off the snap. These kinds of moves used to give Badgers right tackle Riley Mahlman trouble, but he's been better this season at staying heavy on his inside foot to combating them.

If Carter continues his hot streak, Badgers quarterback Braedyn Locke will be in trouble because Carter is too fast to expect Locke to outrun.



Tyler Warren: possession receiver

Penn State has some big-name playmakers that Badgers defensive coordinator Mike Tressel will try to contain. Players like running back Nicholas Singleton — someone the Badgers made a run at as a high school recruit — and receiver Julian Fleming catch headlines, but the most consistent receiver for Penn State is a lesser-known tight end.

Tyler Warren, a 6-foot-6 target out of Mechanicsville, Virginia, has become a key weapon for the Nittany Lions. He rarely leaves the field and is an adequate blocker, but he keeps the chains moving in the passing game. Warren was central to Penn State's comebacks against Bowling Green (eight catches, 146 yards) and Southern Cal (17 catches, 224 yards, one touchdown) and he's scored a touchdown in two straight games.

Warren will have the size advantage against just about any player, so the Badgers must ensure they're not letting Warren run free between zones and picking up easy yards.



COLTEN'S PREDICTION

23



17

Penn State starts its toughest two-game stretch of its season tonight, traveling to Madison before hosting Ohio State next week. If the Nittany Lions look past the Badgers at all, it could be a wild night at Camp Randall. But Penn State's defensive front is similarly talented as Alabama's and if that group stalemates Wisconsin's offensive line with any consistency, it may be tough for Wisconsin to move the ball. Expect the Badgers to be in this game in the fourth quarter, but until Wisconsin shows it can finish big games like these, we'll hold off predicting they will.

THE FANS' PICK

Fans were asked to pick who would win against the opening line, Penn State -7, and were given an alternate spread of a touchdown.

PENN STATE -7	PENN STATE -13
 11%	 18%
WISCONSIN +7	WISCONSIN +13
 59%	 12%